

January 8, 2019

To: President Margaret Spellings, Dr. Bill Roper, the UNC Board of Governors and the ECU Board of Trustees.

We represent a large number of ECU alumni and supporters who wish to come forward in total support of Dr. Cecil Staton. We agree with the ECU Board of Trustees assessment of Dr. Staton's performance when they have twice weighed in with a vote of confidence for him. We are concerned that Dr. Staton has been under a cloud since his hiring with unfair accusations and investigations which have been a continued distraction and hindered his ability to lead.

With the positive things happening at ECU today we can only wonder what Dr. Staton might be able to accomplish if given the latitude to run the university as he has been charged to do. There has not been a week that he has not been faced with distracting criticism and threats. We feel this is unfair and has been a hindrance to the progress of the university.

One of the biggest public criticisms of Dr. Staton has been his connection to the problems in the athletics department, none of which he created. These criticisms are simply symptomatic of today's social media environment. In fact we argue that Dr. Staton has done an incredible job in working to bring back athletics with his hires of Dave Hart, Joe Dooley, Jon Gilbert and Mike Houston. To judge the Chancellor on what he has done for athletics is premature at best. We feel his recent hirings prove he has handled athletics as well as possible considering the mounting problems of the last few years.

There have been continuing frivolous charges against Dr. Staton regarding questions about his hiring, the use of outside contractors, his role in the purchase of the Chancellor's home and other items that have been repeatedly investigated by the BOG and he has been exonerated of any job threatening behavior each and every time. Why then do these things continue to surface as the reasons why he must be removed?

We are concerned that rumors persist that Chancellor Staton will be removed in spite of the support of the trustees and the people who know him best.

We feel it is time for the evaluation of the Chancellor to become public and we would like to offer our support to him. In fact, we would ask that, with the permission of the Chancellor, the 360 review recently finished be released so that it can become part of the record. It is confusing that a document designed and paid for by the university

would not be available to those of us invested in the university. Many of us gave our time to be interviewed for the document and find it insulting that this document has been hidden from view since its publishing.

In short we are asking that Chancellor Staton be allowed to continue in his position without continued threats. It seems beneath this great institution for this to continue. It is time for this shameful episode in our university's history to come to an end and for our Chancellor, Dr. Cecil Staton, to be supported and given every opportunity to lead our university to greatness.

Our university is the ultimate engine for the economic success and health care needs of eastern North Carolina. Dr. Staton's efforts in leading our successful comprehensive campaign, ECU's rural prosperity initiative, increasing research and internationalization, and bringing talented people to leadership positions across our university support our conclusion that our chancellor must be given every opportunity to lead without harassment or inappropriate interference. His commitment to student success has been the hallmark of his tenure and the results are evident.

We call on Pirates everywhere, those in a position of governance and all friends of the university to join together in support of our Chancellor and his vision for our great university. Together we can accomplish much for our region and state and its citizens.

We, the undersigned, appreciate your time and understanding of this very important matter.

Respectfully,